

EXPRESS MAIL NO.: EL750740763US

Docket No. 00-059-DSK

**CLAIMS:**

What is claimed is:

1 1. A virtual stored data management subsystem, the  
2 virtual stored data management subsystem comprising:  
3 one or more hosts; and  
4 a plurality of virtual data units functionally  
5 coupled to the one or more hosts, wherein the plurality  
6 of virtual data units includes associated management  
7 information such that the management information provides  
8 first and second boundaries such that the first and  
9 second boundaries limit preferences in which to store the  
10 virtual data units within the stored data management  
11 subsystem.

1 2. The virtual stored data management subsystem of  
2 claim 1, wherein the management information is  
3 independent of attributes of the virtual stored data  
4 management subsystem.

1 3. The virtual stored data management subsystem of  
2 claim 2, wherein the management information conforms to  
3 installation criteria within the virtual stored data  
4 management system.

1 4. The virtual stored data management subsystem of  
2 claim 1, wherein the management information is related to

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3 attributes of the virtual stored data management  
4 subsystem utilizing a plurality of rules.

1 5. The virtual stored data management subsystem of  
2 claim 4, wherein the plurality of rules are variable.

1 6. The virtual stored data management subsystem of  
2 claim 5, wherein the variable rules are an algorithm.

1 7. The virtual stored management subsystem of claim 1,  
2 wherein the management information is processed in  
3 accordance with storage element attributes and further  
4 comprises:  
5 deriving relationships that define the first and  
6 second boundaries; and  
7 stipulating the first and second boundaries, wherein  
8 stipulated first and second boundaries includes stated  
9 relationships from derived relationships.

1 8. The virtual stored management subsystem of claim 7,  
2 wherein the relationships exist only on demand.

1 9. The virtual stored management subsystem of claim 7,  
2 wherein the relationships are a combination of storage  
3 subsystem relationships.

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1 10. The virtual stored management subsystem of claim 9,  
2 wherein the combination of storage subsystem  
3 relationships includes a redundant array of inexpensive  
4 disks (RAID) and a hierarchical storage management (HSM).

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